

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the entire previously amended paragraph at page 6, lines 15 to 43, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The monomers are subjected to free radical polymerization according to the invention, i.e. polymerization ~~inhibitors~~ initiators which form free radicals under the polymerization conditions are used. Suitable compounds of this type are, for example, hydrogen peroxide, peroxides, hydroperoxides, redox catalysts and nonoxidizing initiators, such as azocompounds which decompose into free radicals under the polymerization conditions. Such azo compounds are, for example, 2,2'-azobis(2-amidinopropane) dihydrochloride, 2,2'-azobis(N,N'-dimethyleneisobutyramidine) dihydrochloride, 2,2'-azobis(2,4-dimethylvaleronitrile, 2,2'-azobis[2-methyl-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)propionamide] or 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile. It is of course also possible to sue mixtures of different initiators. A particularly preferred preparation process for the aqueous dispersions of water-soluble polymers is one in which

(A) N-vinylformamide, if desired together with other monoethylenically unsaturated monomers, and

(B) polyethylene glycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone or mixtures thereof

are polymerized at from 40 to 55°C with water-soluble azoinitiators. Suitable polymeric dispersants (B) are preferably polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, copolymers of ethylene glycol and propylene glycol, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinylpyridine, polyvinylimidazole, polyvinylsuccinimide, a 1:1 molar ratio copolymer of N-vinylcaprolactam and N-vinylmethacetamide, polydiallyldimethylammonium chloride, polyethyleneimine and mixtures thereof. The molar masses of these polymers are preferably from 1500 to 50,000.

Please insert beginning at page 13, line 30, the following as a separate paragraph:

D²
In the Examples 1 to 4, the concentration of sodium dihydrogen phosphate dihydrate by weight based on the amount of water in the initially reaction mixture is 0.63% (Example 1), 0.42% (Examples 2 and 3), 0.48% (Example 4), and 0.60% (Example 5). After addition of the initiator in water, the sodium dihydrogen phosphate concentration in percent by weight based on the amount of water is 0.56% (Example 1), 0.46% (Example 2), 0.38% (Example 3), 0.25% (Example 4) and 0.53% (Example 5).